

Turn the World Upside Down

Impact Partner Sunday

October 14, 2018

Preservice Announcement Video

Overture-Waiting on the World to Change

Video-Shine

Feature-Waiting on the World to Change

Turn and Greet

Message Pt. 1

Good morning everyone here on site and tuning in on the live stream.

I feel like John Maher could have written that song just now. The lyrics are so spot on for the time we are in specifically as the mid-term elections close in in us.

Now we see everything that's going wrong
With the world and those who lead it
We just feel like we don't have the means
To rise above and beat it
So we keep waiting (waiting)
Waiting on the world to change

I don't know about you but I know for myself
and many in my life, it's so hard not to get
sucked in to all that seems not so right with
the world.

When I was preparing for this message, I
looked up info about this song and found that
Mayer in an interview was commenting on how
easy it was to lament about how things were
and to feel ill equipped to do anything about it.
Specifically, he was concerned about Global
Warming and decided that instead of having a
rally or a political bombardment he would
simply invite people to change one thing to
address it.

I found that fascinating and it reminded me so
much of the shift that had to take place in the

mind of the early followers of Jesus. As we learned, earlier this year, the people of Jesus' day assumed He was coming to set them free of the tyranny of the Roman Empire. They thought He would overthrow the government and put them on top of the political ladder or perhaps wage a war to rebel but Jesus does not. In fact, He doesn't say much about the systems of the day but instead focuses on the Kingdom of God and how it was at hand, near and now, not far and distant in the sweet by-and-by.

If you weren't here for our deep dive series focusing in on Jesus, which we began in December of last year and concluded on the first Sunday of May this year, I want to strongly encourage you to check it out. The entire series is located on our website or app under the media archives and I'll be posting links to the messages on our Twitter and FB throughout the week.

In that series, we learned so much about Jesus' heritage, His teachings, and the

expectations that were upon Him. See so often, we view Jesus through knowing the end of the story but that series helped us understand as if we were experiencing it for the first time.

We learned that Jesus ushered a whole upside down way of thinking and acting. Instead of overthrowing the government, Jesus ushers in a way of thinking that will over time radically turn the world upside down.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, the early followers of Jesus begin to do just that. They turn the ancient world on its head not by fighting in a rebellion or engaging in political debate but by doing exactly what Jesus had taught them and engaging in that Upside Down way of thinking. They love their enemies. They bless others. They radically care for the unloveable and those who are outcasts. They serve. They give. They become last and let others go first. And because they live their lives in this completely un-natural way, the world sits up and takes

notice and things start changing.

Let's watch:

VIDEO: Massive Impact Ortberg

There was more to that video that we saw back in January in the series, This is Jesus-Pt II: Dawn of a New Day and I'll post that to our FB page later today if you want to check it out.

As I considered that video and the question Rick posed to us last week, which was if we are followers of Jesus how has knowing Jesus made our lives better and made us better at life, I was reminded once again of the way my life has been changed.

- being more settled in who I was created to be
- being more at peace with the unknown
- being willing to accept that as much as I want to be-I am indeed not in control
- finding the strength to forgive what feels unforgiveable

Once again, it was impressed on my heart and

mind that it is His transforming power at work in me/us that will help me/us to become more loving, more peaceful, more patient, more kind, more self-controlled. As we are willing to be forgiven, we can forgive. As we realized we have been blessed, we are willing to bless. As we understand how deeply we are loved, we are willing to love.

You could see that in the early Christians. They were by no means perfect and I'm most certain they all had their struggles and yet those imperfect, just trying to follow Jesus folks, turned the world upside down. They took seriously what Jesus said as it was recorded in the Gospel of Matthew.

In Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your

heavenly Father.

They let their good deeds shine out. They were generous, compassionate, motivated by love. They were clear that Jesus had called them – the *ecclesia* (which is the Greek word that gets translated “church”). He said, “I will build my church/ecclesia.”

We learned in the past that “ecclesia” – to those who lived in the Greco-Roman world of Jesus’ day – didn’t describe a building or even a group of people who came together to worship and encourage one another. In fact, it wasn’t a religious term at all.

Instead, *ecclesia* was used to describe a group of wise elders who were concerned with the well-being and flourishing of their community. An *ecclesia* was a community within a community whose purpose was to add value to that community.

Jesus said that’s what His followers were to be to their community. To love others, to help

them flourish, to care for the poor, the oppressed. They were NOT to wait on the world to change but rather to be an active part of changing the world.

But what gets in the way?

Well I've asked the band to come back and share a song that I think illustrates one of the key barriers.

As they play this song, our ushers will receive the offering. If you are a guest with us, please feel no obligation to contribute. This church is supported by those of us who call it home; we are just glad you are joining us.

Take it away, band.

Feature-My Only Little World – Offering

Message Pt. 2

What gets in the way? Our own little world. Our worries. Our cares. Our stress. Our fears. Our agendas.

And thankfully this Sunday, Impact Partner Sunday, is happening at just the right time for me.

Because you see I go through these spurts where I get sucked in to waiting on the world to change, on my own little world and concerns and I need to be reminded of the grander vision. And the past month has been one of those seasons.

I need to be reminded that Jesus has blessed me so I can be a blessing. That He invites me, along with all of you to do our part in turning this world upside down.

I may not be able to change everything but I can affect change in my community, our community.

One of my favorite quotes from Andy Stanley is one I repeat to myself whenever I'm having that moment where I think, ugh it's so overwhelming. He says "Do for one what you

wish you could do for everyone.” And that helps me refocus that what I can do is to be engaged with my church/our church as we seek to make our community better, stronger.

Our purpose as a church is to Reach Seekers, Build a Family and Impact Our Community.

In the Fall of 2016, North Heartland adopted the Impact Partner Strategy as a way to fulfill our purpose of Impacting our Community. You see we realized there were many great organizations and groups that were doing good in ways we could not. Their primary purpose and focus was to feed the poor, to care for those in need, to equip the future church planters, and so on.

We decided to focus our efforts to resource them with our time, our talent and our treasure. In the time we have remaining, you will learn about our Impact Partners and how we have partnered with them in the past year to maximize the blessing our community.

In your program today, there is an insert that highlights each of our eight tier-one partners and on the back you can let us know if you'd like to be more involved with them. Tier-one partners are our primary focus-they receive our focus in fundraising and service work. We also have tier-two groups who we help as we can but in a more limited fashion.

Our admin and finance team has also put together a booklet that has details about dollars raised and time donated this year to each group. It is available for pick up this week at the Impact Partner table in the commons or after this week in the Info Center.

Here's two highlights from that report:

Last year, North Heartland raised and donated are you ready...drum roll please...\$73,000 for use to bless our Impact Partners and donated over 7,500 hours of volunteer time to help in a wide variety of projects.

So let's take a look more closely at each of our

partners.

First up, is our newest partner which we added in the Spring of 2018, The Single Mom KC. Let's hear from Misty Honnold, the founder and director.

VIDEO: The Single Mom KC

As Misty mentioned in the video, this year we hosted their Summer Splash event here on-site providing early childhood childcare, volunteer support and free space. A big shout out to all those who helped make that day great. And to all the seasoned gals at NHCC who are investing in our single mom's small group-You Belong. I'd also like to thank our friends at Salon Inspire for providing fresh new haircuts and styles free of charge to our moms and kiddos.

We are looking forward to continuing our partnership with The Single Mom KC in the next year.

And by the way if you are you a single mom and are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please use a communication card or the insert to let us know...make sure to give us your name, email and mark single mom.

Next up, is Care Portal which is a returning partner. Let's watch:

VIDEO: Care Portal

Highlights:

- Added monthly support
- Gifts for Strengthening Families-a course to help families who are reuniting
- Provided furniture, educational supplies and more to children and families in need of support
- Provided Christmas gifts for special needs middle and high school students
- Worked to beautify the Clay County annex where a variety of services are provided for teens and families

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Care Portal in the year to come.

Our next partner is a little trickier to describe. Though not an official organization, it is a group of people who we believe in strongly and that is our KC Metro teachers and schools.

KC Metro Teachers and Schools

For the past five years NHCC has hosted a FREE Teacher Supply Giveaway. This event continues to grow and be a blessing to so many students. We know first hand that when we bless a teacher with resources we are leveraging our investment in the next generation. Bless a teacher and you bless a whole class of students.

Highlights:

- Provided resources to over 670 educators, ranging from the inner city to rural districts. -
- Provided small Christmas gifts for approximately 127 middle students who attend KCIA, a school located in KCMO with a

high need population.

We are excited to continuing partnering with our teachers and schools in Kansas City.

We also support the North American Mission Board and their SEND initiative which helps assess, recruit, train and equip church planters who are looking to begin churches in areas of need.

NAMB/Church Planting

- SEND church planting assessment.

- Provided support to Life Connection Grain Valley

We look forward to seeing what the Lord does with our partnership with NAMB in the coming year.

Because we are in the crosshairs of the East-West/North-South interstate highway system, KC is the fourth largest hub for human trafficking. We partner with Restoration House of Greater KC which provides long term care and healing for women and soon teens who

have come out of the trafficking industry. Women like Christine, let's hear her story:

VIDEO: Restoration House

Highlights:

-Provided over \$8500 in support to their ministry needs as well as gas cards to help them as they transport the women to various doctor appointments.

Assisted with their clothing boutique which helps the organization earn income while giving the women job skills.

We love the heart of Restoration House and look forward to continuing to partner with them.

Hillcrest Platte County was just added to our partner list in the last year. Many of you know Hillcrest and the great work they do helping those who are homeless or who are at risk for homelessness get on their feet and rebuild. They do amazing work. Let's hear a story of a couple that benefitted from the group.

VIDEO: Hillcrest Platte County

Highlights:

- Adopted the Young Adult Housing to purchase group gifts and supplies.
- Provided \$8500 in support of their ministry from the Golf Tournament.

We are especially looking forward to becoming more involved with Hillcrest Platte County this year, specifically their young adult housing program which assists students who are aging out of foster care.

Next up is a partner who is pretty well known to any of our students who have attended a Youthfront Camp. Something to Eat well...let's watch:

VIDEO: Something to Eat

Highlights:

- Provided over \$5k for ministry and transportation needs.
- Packed 30,000 meals.

We are looking forward to continuing our

partnership with this Something to Eat this year. Our plan is to host smaller packing parties throughout the year instead of one big one. Our packing party will be coming up on Sunday, November 18th from 2-4 pm and you can use the insert in today's program to get signed up as space will be limited.

We will also be donating all the ticket proceeds from this year's Celebration of Christmas shows to Something to Eat. And again, to get an early sign up on helping, fill out the insert.

Our last partner is again a partner who has been with us since the beginning, Parkville Women's Clinic. Parkville Women's Clinic offers support to those facing an unplanned pregnancy. The clinic offers free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and a variety of support to women, women like Michelle.

I want to share with you part of Michelle's story but I want to mention that due to time constraints I had to shorten her story. She found herself single again and facing an

unplanned pregnancy, let's listen:

VIDEO: Parkville Women's Clinic

Highlights:

- Provided over \$3500 in ministry support as well as provided Christmas gifts and family needs to two single mom households.
- Also provided, diapers and supplies and volunteers to help with Vintage Market days

On Saturday, November 3rd, we will host our 4th year of running concessions and a small mall during Cool to be Blue Boutique which is held at NHCC by a local women's group known as the KC Sizzling Sapphires. It's a large craft and vendor fair. Last year, we made over \$3500 and are looking forward to earning money once again to be used to benefit the ministry at PWC.

Truly North Heartland, together we really did make a difference this year and I look forward to what we will do together in the coming year.

What to know for the coming year:

We'll continue to do income generating events and project work days but we are also working to strengthen the program by recruiting Impact Partner Coordinators-we already have 4 and are looking for 4 more. These are folks who have a passion for the organization, are willing to serve as the liaison between them and NHCC as well as serve and help facilitate at any events or projects for that partner and will update our folks who sign up for updates with ways they can be involved. If this sounds like something you are interested in, just check that line on the insert and drop it in the offering baskets as you leave.

We also now have Facebook Pages for each of our partners so simply search Impact Partner and then the name of the group and you'll find their page that you can follow and watch for updates on needs and opportunities.

One of the key ways we jump start our Impact Partner season is with our Impact Partner offering which as you might guess happens today.

Your gifts make it possible to help bless our partners and fill in the gaps for partners who do not have an income generating event. Each year, we have asked you to give \$29.95 per adult. 100% of what you give is given away to our Impact Partners. We use a separate budget line from our general fund to help provide for our volunteers meals, etc when we are doing our project and event work. So everything you give is used to benefit the groups you heard about this morning.

Now I want to remind you...that for some of you \$29.95 is too much. It's way outside what you could do, but you could give \$12.95 or \$2.95 even. Please do not break your budget trying to do this...but for some of you, you could easily do \$29.95 as that's less than what you spend on dining out and for some you could easily do \$299.95 or maybe even \$2995.00.

The point is you know what is doable or if it's even doable at all, but I want to invite you and

to challenge you to get in the game today and help us make it another great year for our Impact Partners by making a one-time gift today as you leave either through the offering baskets (ushers will be at the door), through the giving kiosks located at the Impact Partner table in the commons or through our website or app (be sure to select the Impact Partner Fund).

Let's pray.

Feature – From the Day

Closing-Shannon

You are blessed to be a blessing.

-Give

-Get Involved

Let's make it another great year NHCC impacting our community, doing what we can to turn this world upside down with the love and hope of Jesus. Amen.